

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display meansdevice for variably displaying designs in a plurality of rows and emitting light; and
a front display meansdevice disposed in front of the variable display meansdevice, said front display meansdevice including a liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display meansdevice and having a plurality of openings transparent areas formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and, a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate and a reflection plate disposed between said variable display device and said light guiding plate for reflecting a light emitted from said light source on said light guiding plate to said liquid crystal display panel;
a memory operative for storing a selection of at least image data;
an image controller operably connected to said memory and said liquid crystal display panel,
wherein light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the light emitted from the variable display meansdevice illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings transparent areas of the light guiding plate and
wherein said image controller is operative to cause a selected one of the image data from said memory to be displayed on said liquid crystal display panel while simultaneously said variable display device variably displays designs in the plurality of rows through the plurality of transparent areas thereby ensuring visibility of said variably displayed designs while the selected one of the image data is displayed on said liquid crystal display panel.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said variable display meansdevice is comprised of one or more

rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display device that variably displays designs in a plurality of rows and emits light; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, said front display device includes a transparent liquid crystal display panel, a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device and having a plurality of openings formed therethrough corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of rows and,a light source disposed adjacent a peripheral surface of the light guiding plate and a reflection plate disposed between said variable display device and said light guiding plate for reflecting a light emitted from said light source on said light guiding plate to said liquid crystal display panel;

a memory operative for storing a selection of at least image data;
an image controller operably connected to said memory and said liquid crystal display panel,

wherein light from the light source is guided via the light guiding plate to the liquid crystal display panel and illuminates a partial surface area of the liquid crystal display panel while the designs of light emitted from the variable display device illuminate illuminates a remaining surface area of the liquid crystal display panel through respective ones of the plurality of openings of the light guiding plateand

wherein said image controller is operative to cause a selected one of the image data from said memory to be displayed on said liquid crystal display panel while simultaneously said variable display device variably displays designs in the plurality of rows through the plurality of transparent areas thereby ensuring

visibility of said variably displayed designs while the selected one of the image data is displayed on said liquid crystal display panel.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said variable display device is comprised of one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein said gaming machine is a slot machine.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising:

a transparent antistatic sheet disposed on the rear side of said light guiding plate.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising:

at least one other light source disposed at a side of said reflection plate that opposes the variable display device.